

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 000430

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/2011
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [LY](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: BULGARIA LOOKS TO U.S. FOR "PUSH" ON LIBYA

REF: TRIPOLI 60

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR JOHN BEYRLE, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) SUMMARY: IN A MARCH 23 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR, FOREIGN MINISTER KALFIN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RELEASE OF BULGARIAN PRISONERS OF WAR WERE BEING DELAYED.

12. (C) KALFIN'S FRUSTRATION WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT, DESPITE AGREEMENT FROM ALL SIDES ON A GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR MOVING FORWARD, MOVEMENT TOWARD A FINAL SETTLEMENT WAS SLOW.

13. (C) WHEN ASKED BY THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER A NEW ROUND OF MULTILATERAL MEETINGS COULD HELP ADVANCE THE PROCESS, KALFIN WAS PESSIMISTIC, STATING THAT THE PROCESS WAS TOO COMPLEX.

14. (C) REFERRING TO RECENT TALKS WITH THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT ON DEBT FORGIVENESS, KALFIN SAID THE GOB IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY LIBYAN PROPOSAL THAT WOULD LEAD TO A SETTLEMENT.

15. (C) KALFIN EMPHASIZED THE GOB'S ATTEMPTS TO EXERCISE PUBLIC RESTRAINT ON THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE A PRODUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

16. (C) COMMENT: IN KALFIN'S WORDS: "IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT INFLUENCES THE LIBYAN POLICY, IT IS THE U.S. POSITION." THE BULGARIANS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. POSITION IS THE KEY TO A SETTLEMENT.

BEYRL